



Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee  
123 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

April 15, 2013

Chair Bonoff and members of the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee:

The students attending Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) institutions recognize the importance of the capital bonding process to workforce development and quality higher education in Minnesota. If the legislature decides to pass a bonding bill this session, we look forward to providing student input.

MnSCU students want to see the system receive bonding dollars, particularly an increase in funding for HEAPR projects. We must protect the state's existing facility investment through full HEAPR funding. The \$90 million HEAPR request would allow MnSCU institutions to keep up with a deferred maintenance backlog of more than \$700 million across the system. Funding these projects avoids increased costs associated with further deterioration and prevents campuses from having to pay for critical maintenance through reserve fund dollars.

HEAPR projects provide the stable learning environment necessary to train workers for Minnesota's economy. Our colleges and universities strive to expand access to an extraordinary education and provide the best value for Minnesotans. Students need safe, warm, and dry facilities in order to achieve those goals. Additionally, HEAPR projects mitigate further increases in tuition and fees, as HEAPR funds carry no debt obligations for students and institutions.

As the bonding process continues, we look forward to working with this committee to prioritize and promote the importance of HEAPR funding for MnSCU campuses. We look forward to continuing to work with you throughout this session and beyond. Again, thank you for your ongoing efforts to support MnSCU students.

Sincerely,

Steve Sabin  
President  
Minnesota State College Student Association

Moriah Miles  
State Chair  
Minnesota State University Student Association